

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this subject are respectfully requested.

The Examiner objects to claim 1 with respect to the following clauses "identifying the or each network" and "assigning to an or each APN." This language has now been amended to refer to "identifying the network" and "assigning to the APN." Withdrawal of the objection with claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) by anticipated by commonly-assigned Skog et al. corresponding to the U.S. published application number 2001/0028636. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In order for a reference to be anticipatory, it must disclose each and every feature in the claim either explicitly or under the principles of inherency. Skog does not disclose every feature of independent claims 1, 6, and 11.

For example, in claim 1, Skog fails to disclose "using said GGSN for combining the APN gateway address and this subscriber IP address to form a unique subscriber identifier." Skog discloses transmitting two separate identifiers: a mobile station's Internet Protocol (IP) address and its MSISDN. MSISDN stands for Mobile Station ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network) Number. The mobile terminal's IP address is temporarily assigned.

As explained in the summary of Skog's invention, a "start packet" contains the MSISDN and the temporarily-assigned IP address of the mobile terminal. That start

packet is sent to and stored in a database. That database may be subsequently accessed by other servers to obtain the MSISDN of the mobile terminal using a particular IP address. Thus, Skog sends two independent parameters and associates them together on a database. There is no teaching (or suggestion) of combining the MSISDN and the temporarily-assigned IP address to construct a third unique parameter to uniquely identify the mobile subscriber.

Claim 6 recites "means for *combining* the APN gateway address and the subscriber IP address *to form a unique subscriber identifier.*" Claim 11 recites the step of "*combining* the gateway address and the subscriber IP address *to form a unique subscriber identifier.*" Skog does not teach combining the MSISDN and the temporarily-assigned IP address to form another subscriber identifier. Both the MSISDN and the IP address remain separate identifiers. They are never put together and used as a new identifier for the mobile subscriber.


Lacking all of the features required by the independent claims, the anticipation rejection based on Skog must be withdrawn. The application is in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Abstract

A method for assigning unique identifiers for allowing communication between a GPRS (General Packet Radio Service) system and a RADIUS (Remote Authentication Dial In User Service) server. The method includes ~~the steps of~~ connecting one or more external networks to the GPRS system and identifying the or each network with an APN (Access Point Name), and assigning to an or each APN external network a gateway address. ~~Further steps include passing an~~ An APN-external network authentication request is passed from a GGSN (Gateway GPRS Support Node) to ~~said the~~ the RADIUS server, ~~providing from said~~ The RADIUS server provides to ~~said the~~ the GGSN upon such request a subscriber IP (Internet Protocol) address to be stored in ~~said the~~ the GGSN (Gateway GPRS Support Node), ~~said~~ The subscriber IP address being is unique for the respective APN external network defined in ~~said the~~ the GGSN, ~~The using said~~ GGSN for combining combines the APN gateway address and the subscriber IP address, to form a unique subscriber identifier, and ~~sending from said GGSN said~~ sends that identifier to the RADIUS server for accounting, e.g., in the form of an ASCII string.

Fig. 1.

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